MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the special consideration that persuaded Government to give this special permission?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The President has already explained the special circumstances under which this is being exported now.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know the quantity exported?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Nothing more can be said on the matter.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable members, I am afraid, cannot be given any further information in this matter excepting that a great deal of monazite had been as a matter of fact, exported during the last 30 years not knowing that there was thorium in monazite. All these persons to whom these exports have been made could exploit thorium from the monazite. This particular consignment of which the Secretary is speaking has been exported for a specific purpose which is confidential in character. And therefore, no further information can be given about it.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know at least the rough amount that has been received by the Government for issuing that permit?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It has been said more than once that no more information in regard to this subject can be given.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): May I know whether this licence was issued after knowing the special use of thorium?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No more information could be given. (*Laughter.*)

Thorium.

52. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any sources of thorium have been discovered in this State;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have entered into any consultation or agreement with any individuals or institutions or Governments regarding the exploitation of thorium resources in this State?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No agreements have been entered into with anybody.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any negotiations are being carried on or are under contemplation for the prospecting of.....

PRESIDENT: Nothing with reference to thorium. No negotiations are in progress. Such negotiations in the nature of things cannot be in progress, with private individuals for obvious reasons.

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MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government will defer from entering into any final agreement until the legislature has been reconstituted?

PRESIDENT: It is not at all possible to give such an undertaking and Government cannot give that undertaking, because it is just posssible that international considerations might require certain agreements being entered into. But those will have to be kept confidential.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether those negotiations are with other nations?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The President has already stated that, in regard to thorium, no negotiations are being carried on now.

Thorium.

53. *MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvella*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government have entered into any contract with any foreign company with regard to the thorium deposits in Travancore?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No.

Ban on newspapers.

54. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of newspapers that are under ban at present in the State; and

(*b*) the reasons for imposing such ban?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR (*Inspector General of Police*):

(*a*) Nil.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*).

Ban on newspapers.

55. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the names of newspapers whose entry into or circulation in the State was banned during the last two years with dates of such ban;

(*b*) the reasons for such ban; and

(*c*) the papers in respect of which the bans were lifted and reasons thereof?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: (*a*) A *statement furnishing the information is laid on the table.

(*b*) Publication of prejudicial reports.

(*c*) The ban on the papers mentioned in (*a*) above has been lifted in accordance with the decision of Government to raise all the bans on newspapers and journals.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the policy of Government underlying the ban on newspapers?

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